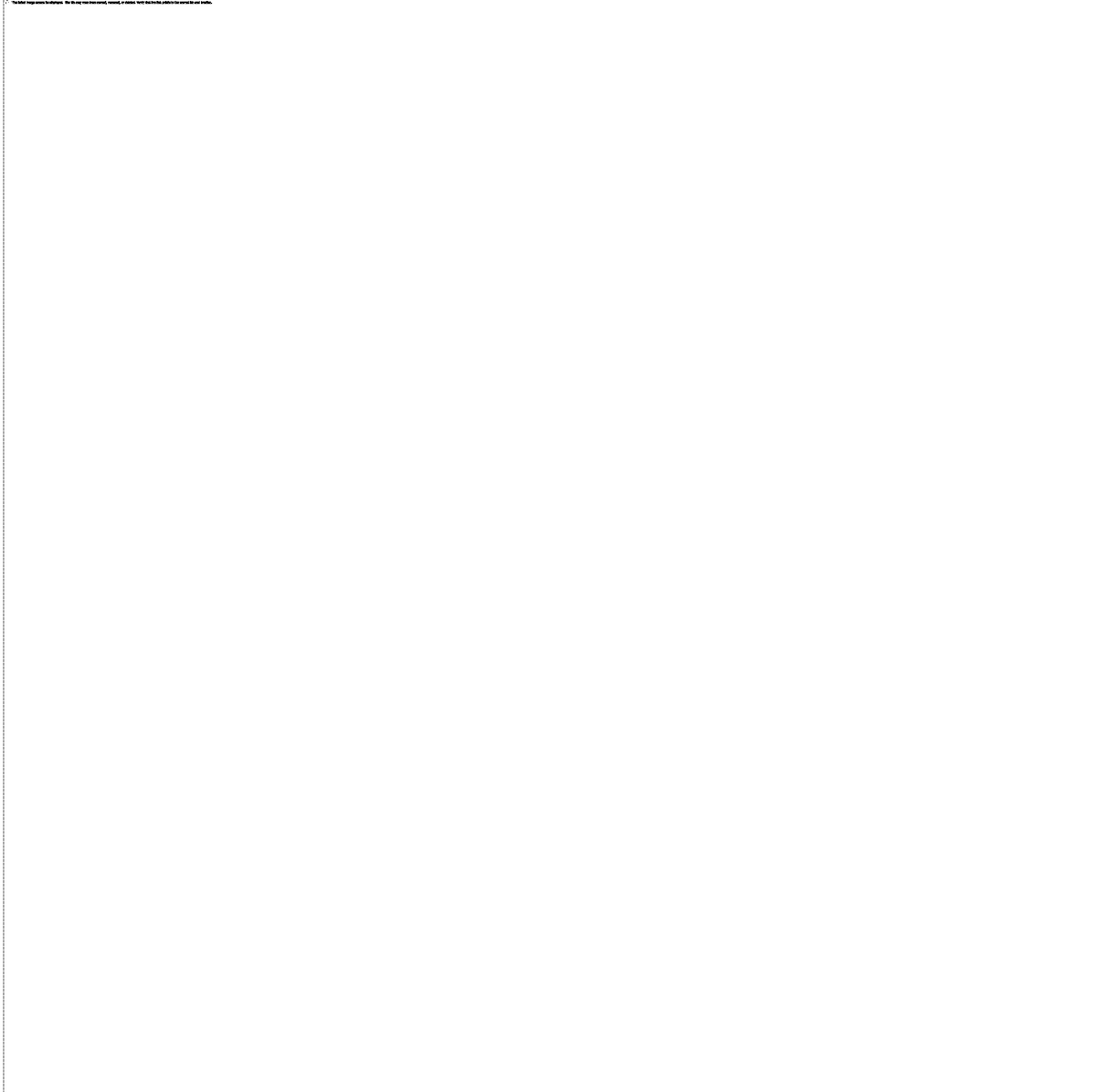


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**EPA Faces New Backlog Of Chemical Applications After Shutdown Ends**

EPA's chemical office staff are returning to work following the weeks-long government shutdown facing a new backlog of applications for new chemical approvals and limited time to meet statutory deadlines for assessing risks of existing chemicals, sources say.

### **Bipartisan Group Seeks To Address PFAS But Faces Industry, GOP Hurdles**

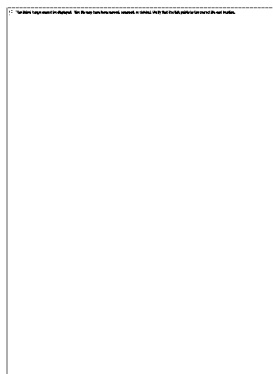
A group of House lawmakers Jan. 23 announced the formation of a bipartisan task force to push legislative, funding and other measures to pressure EPA and other agencies to clean up growing contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), though the group is likely to face pushback from industry and some Republicans.

### **Utilities Warn California's Water Toxicity Test Sets 'Troubling' Precedent**

A national organization of municipal wastewater utilities is urging California to drop its plan to adopt a new method for assessing toxicity of effluent discharged to surface waters, arguing it "will set a troubling national precedent" if California adopts the controversial, EPA-backed method.

### **EPA's Draft PV29 Analysis Raises Legal Test Over TSCA Data Standards**

Environmentalists and former EPA staff are raising multiple concerns that the agency's recently released draft assessment of pigment violet 29 (PV29), the first such assessment released since Congress reformed the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), violates that statute, signaling they plan to sue if the agency does not change it.



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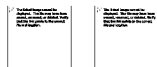
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